

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and of overreaching. This is a clear violation of the equal time and fairness doctrines. Without those the media would no longer serve to provide the public with unbiased information. Without unbiased reporting democracy becomes a sham.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. In addition such concentrations of power allow a scary ability to manipulate and to push personal agendas.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.